

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MAY 2026

Upcoming meeting – May 11th @ 6:30PM at McPherson Hall, First Congregational Church, 1361 State Road. Program: *The House on Goodwin Road – story of the Moses Paul House* Based on the essay by Jacqueline Ballou Sullivan, granddaughter of Herbert and Helen Knowles. Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2034163951?pwd=0CyJcarpTklwWkDBbBODxWCi2biFNe.1>

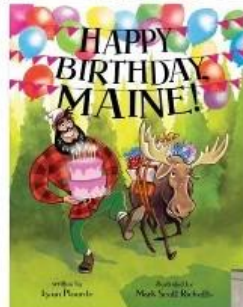
NEWS

Summer is beginning to ‘heat’ up as we prepare for the opening of the #8 One-Room Schoolhouse Museum and America’s 250th celebration! We’ve added some special events and talks, some of which we are partnering with others to bring to you. In addition to the 250th, this year is the 30th Anniversary of Eliot Historical Society given the #8 One-Room Schoolhouse by the town! Terry Johnson, the members of her 3rd class, and then principal of Eliot Elementary School, Jerry Burnell will be joining us for a special reunion-celebration.

In 1997 Terry’s class held the first fundraiser for the restoration – a quilt, which is on display at the schoolhouse.

Check out the other events but remember it’s only a partial list as more will be added in the coming months!

Opening for the Season –
Memorial Day, May 25th, after services
at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery



Wednesdays and Saturdays

10 – 2

Partial Schedule for the #8 Schoolhouse and our joint events

Children’s Story Time 4th Wednesday of the month @ 10 am (will include activity and a snack)

June 24 – *Happy Birthday Maine* by Lynn Plourde

July 22 – *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey

August 26 – *How I Wish I Could Fly* by Jeanne Russell

Exploring History & Celebrations

June 10 & 13 - *Trolleys of Eliot*

July 15 - *Meet and Greet* with Terri Johnson, Jerry Burnell and students

July 18 - *Women in the Revolution* at William Fogg Library (time TBD)

August 5 & 8 – *Celebrating the Schoolhouse’s 30th Anniversary*

Sept 13 (raindate 9/20) – *Sit and Talk or Take a Walk* – 1pm Hammond Park Gazebo

Sept 16 – *Eliot in the Revolution* – 10am

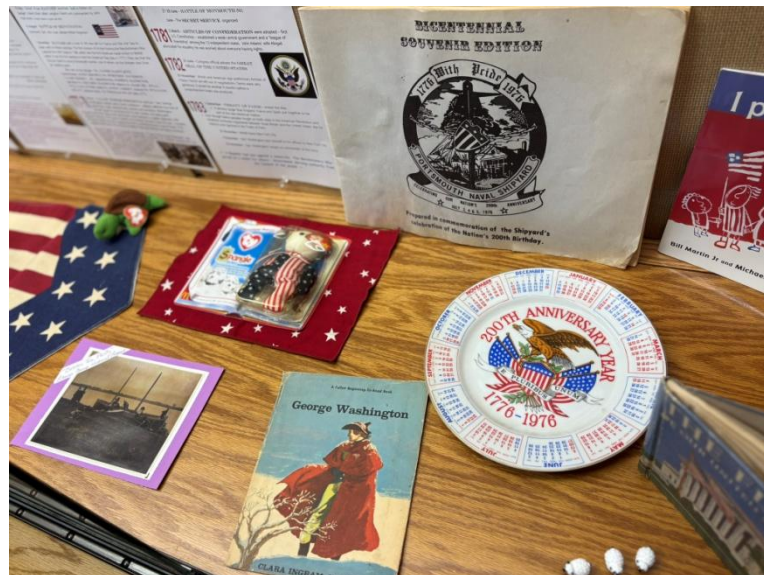
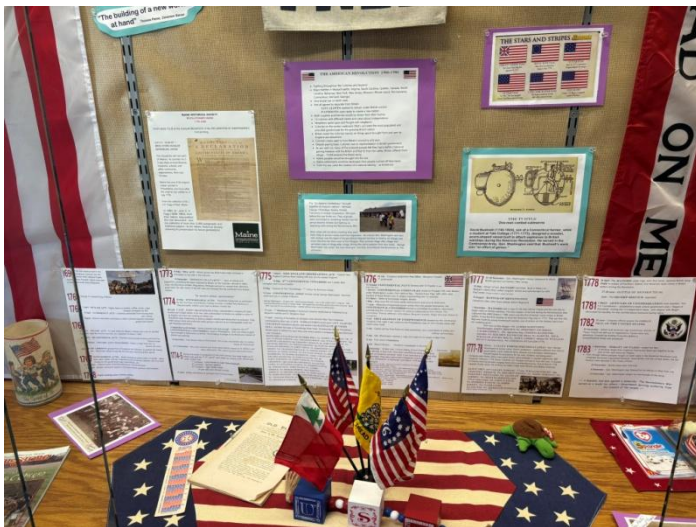
1 Address: PO BOX 3, Eliot, ME 03903
Website: www.eliothistoricalsociety.org
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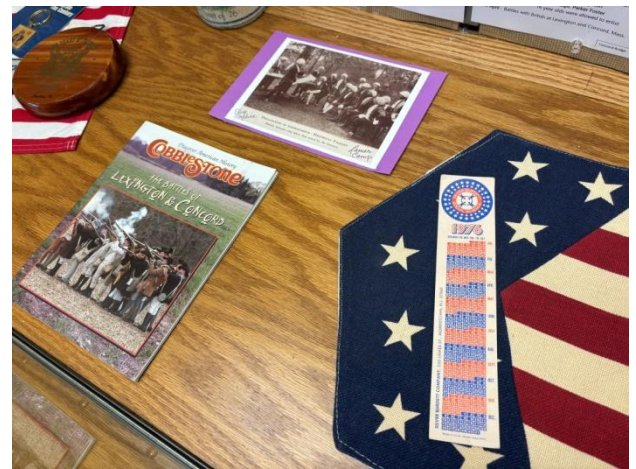
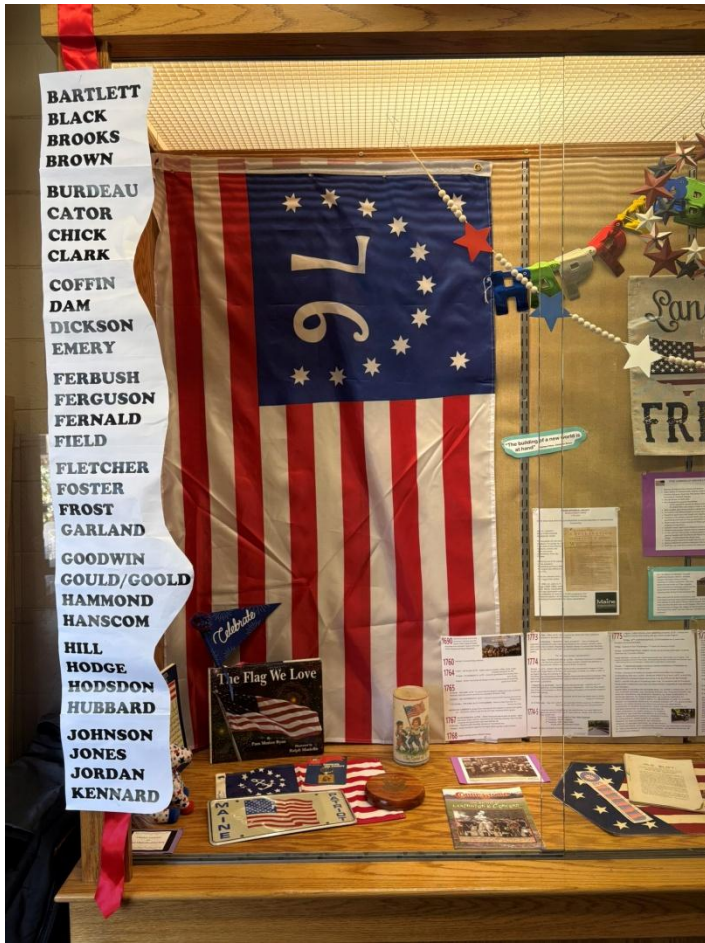
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Two new displays went up in April at the **Eliot Elementary School** and the **Marshwood Great Works School**.

Celebrating 250 Years was the theme at Eliot Elementary School. We took a look at the events of the Revolutionary War period, the citizens who answered the call, and some fun things added in. Among the events and the Eliot citizens involved are the raid on *Ft. William and Mary*; Washington at Valley Forge; the capture of the *Dalton* and incarceration of prisoner in Old Mill Prison; the Sons of Liberty; Battles of Lexington and Concord; Continental Navy; Capt. John Paul Jones and the *Ranger*; privateers; the Confederacy of the Six Nations; the "Turtle".



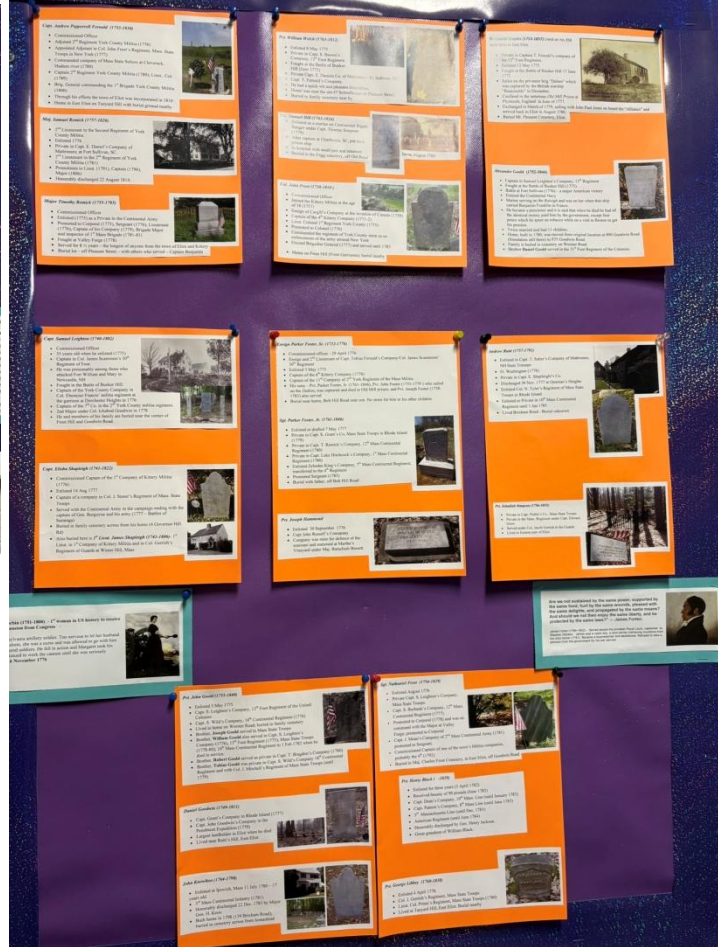
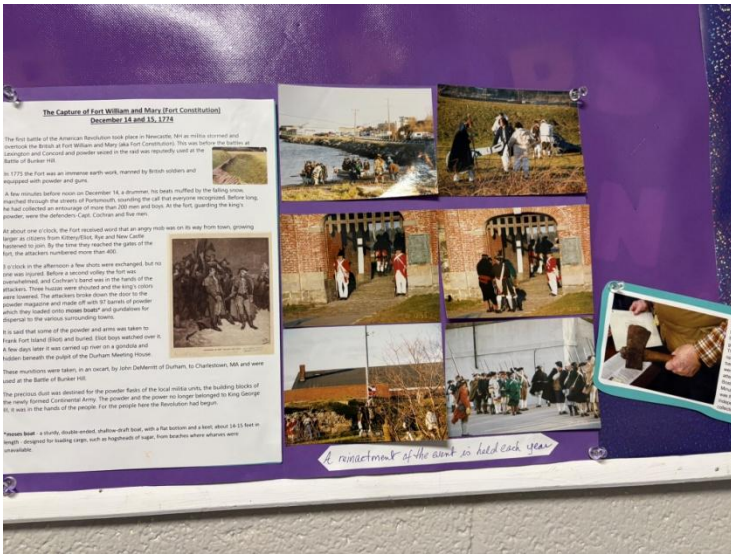
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At Marshwood Great Works School they are celebrating the 66th Anniversary of the building of the school and its first opening as South Berwick High School! We took a look back to 1960 when the school was being built and its short period as the town's first high school. In 1966 when SAD #35 was formed, and the consolidated district's Marshwood High School was built in Eliot, on 236, at the end of Depot Road, this school became Marshwood Junior High School (1966-1988). In addition to pictures of the building of the school, we were excited to get a box of pictures from former teacher at the school, Richard Fernald showing the various activities – Medieval Feast, Archaeological Dig, Science Fair – as part of him and his fellow teachers' integrated studies. There are various Jr. High Class pictures, the inside

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of the building and classrooms when both a high school and a junior high, Odyssey of the Mind, the “Hawk Talk” a newspaper produced in the 1980s, the cross country running team and Jr. High track teams that were started and coached by Fernald, and pictures of the teachers who were at the South Berwick High School and then continued on to the first year at Marshwood High School, when it opened in 1966.



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A special thank you to Rick Becker and his folks from Facebook's **Old Time Remembrances From South Berwick ME**, the **William Fogg Library**, and former 6th grade teacher, Richard Fernald.



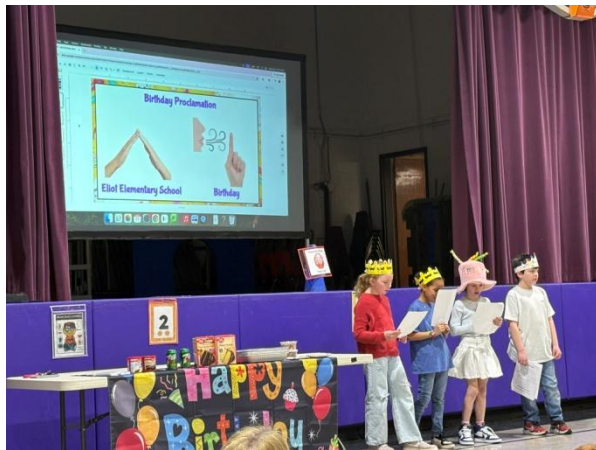
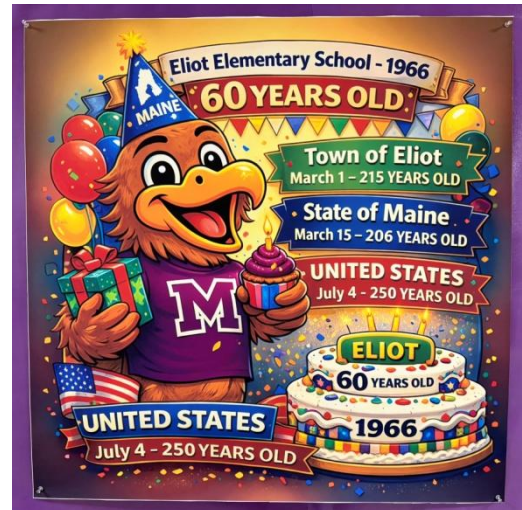
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In case you weren't aware, there is a lot to celebrate this year and the children at Eliot Elementary School have done us all proud! In March, we were invited to a "Birthday Bash". This event celebrated their SCHOOL, TOWN, STATE and NATION!

Following the morning welcome, salute to the Flag, and announcements for the day, they presented their own DECLARATION, designating the day in recognition of the birthday of Eliot Elementary School, the birthday of our town, and the birthday of our Nation, followed by the singing of HAPPY BIRTHDAY. In the spirit of service to the community, they kicked off a project, building birthday "kits" to be given to the food



pantries. A huge thank you to EES principal, Ann Shisler, all the great teachers and staff, and especially the children for this

Marshwood Middle School students, under the direction of **Renee Caverly**, took on, as a community service project, the cleaning of the Moses/Sarah Farmer

Cemetery and its adjacent Hanscom Cemetery. They were able to get quite a bit done in an hour and plan to do it again!



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Eliot Elementary Students in grades 2 & 3 are studying Eliot's history, preparing to take a ride on May 29th. Climbing into two motorized trolleys, they will take a tour, passing several places of interest including the old trolley line and train depot, brickyards, old stores, and former schools. We are hoping that people will be there to greet the kids and cheer them on, when the trolleys stop briefly at Green Acre and the William Fogg Library. If you'd like to dress up in some type of period costume (any period will do!). There will be 4 tours with 2 trolleys each, leaving from the elementary school beginning at 9am and finishing at noon. They will run about 40 minutes apart. At noon, parked at Eliot Elementary, the Pre-K, kindergarten, and 1st graders will have the opportunity to go on and check out the trolleys. [Raindate is June 5]

Jan and Rosanne had the opportunity to visit the old Dr. Henry Durgin house at 1088 State Road during an open house as it was in the process of being sold. Dr. Durgin, the



last of a series of doctors to live in this house, came to Eliot in 1889 and served Eliot for 50 years. The house was actually built by another doctor of Eliot – Dr. Horace Stacey who was born in Shapleigh, Maine and came to Eliot around 1846. Doctors Mark Wentworth and Calvin Guptill also practiced and lived in this house.

Dr. Durgin was born in Freedom, NH. He was a member of the school board and a member of the committee that built the High School at the site of the present town hall.



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